GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:461
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2003
PRODUCTION OF FERTILIZER MIXTURES
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have banned the production of fertilizer mixtures in a phased manner;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) the number of small scale units in the country producing such mixture alongwith their total output and employment potential;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some multinational companies are also producing the fertilizer mixtures in large quantities; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 461 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.4.2003 REGARDING PRODUCTION OF FERTILIZER MIXTURES.

(a) & (b): The Government have not imposed any ban on the production of fertilizer mixtures. However, in July, 2002, the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation issued guidelines regarding mixtures of NPK fertilizers to State Governments. Through these guidelines, the States have, inter alia, been advised to notify only such grades of NPK fertilizer mixtures which contain minimum 35 units of nutrients in case of the mixture having all the three nutrients, i.e., nitrogen, phosphate and potash and in case the fertilizer mixture is having only two of the three nutrients, then it should contain minimum 25 units of nutrients. Also, the fertilizer mixtures to be notified should not be identical or almost similar to the grades of complex fertilizers already notified in Schedule I, Part-A of FCO. The State Governments were advised to de-notify existing grades of mixtures that do not meet the above requirements within a period of one year from the issue of these guidelines. The State Governments have further been advised to discourage physical mixtures of NPK fertilizer and to notify minimum standards/facilities for establishment of granular mixing units and the existing such units may be given two years' time to switch over to granular mixtures. These steps have been taken in the interest of farmers to avoid confusion between complex fertilizers, which are produced through chemical process and the fertilizer mixtures, and also that farmers are not made to pay higher per unit cost of nutrients for low grades of mixtures.

(c) to (e): The mixture fertilizers are not covered under the subsidy/ concession scheme nor these are under the production/distribution control of the Government. Complete details about the units are not maintained by Department of Fertilizers (DOF).However, in a study conducted by DOF during 1997-98 and subsequently in 2001, it has been observed that about 200 units are producing approximately 10 lakh MTs of mixture fertilizers in the country.